
Key Stage 2: Celebrating Athens gallery session

The final page of these notes can be copied and given to students who you think may need additional support during the workshop or to adult helpers.

Gallery sessions

- All gallery sessions take place in the main rooms of the British Museum and provide an opportunity for students to work with objects on display in the Museum's galleries.
- The sessions last for about 45 minutes and are led by members of the Department of Learning and Audiences. All accompanying teachers and adult helpers must remain with the group throughout the session.
- You will receive information regarding the meeting point for the start of your gallery session when booking in at the Ford Centre for Young Visitors at the beginning of your visit to the Museum.

Before your visit: preparing for your workshop

- Key themes for the workshop are architecture and materials, ancient Greek cities and civic life, gods and goddesses, different forms of sculpture and Athenian identity.
- Key vocabulary includes building, temple, frieze, sculpture, relief, column, pediment, architecture. You might like to discuss these words before the session.
- Use the Explore function to search the Museum's collections on-line for objects from Ancient Greece at www.britishmuseum.org

During your visit

- This educator-led session will enable students to explore the Parthenon building and its famous sculptures, the event depicted on the carved frieze of the temple and the reasons why the Athenians built the temple and decorated it with this frieze. It will also touch on how an ancient Athenian might have responded to the frieze.
- The session provides a chance to discuss, debate and investigate through a mixture of whole group and independent small group activities.

Celebrating Athens continued

- Rooms with objects relating to the session include:
Room 18: The Parthenon Sculptures
Room 69: Life in Ancient Greece - Trade and transport (Case 25), music and dance (Case 22), an Athenian festival (Case 24), the Gods of Olympos (Case 32).

After your visit: follow-up activities

- Find out about other temples in Greece and the wider Greek world such as Sicily, Southern Italy and Turkey: how similar are they, how were they decorated, what stories were shown in their sculptures? What is shown on the other parts of the Parthenon frieze in the Acropolis Museum in Athens and in the Louvre in Paris?
- Observational drawings or photos taken on the museum visit and from elsewhere can be used to create a class display of the procession including colours and other objects now lost from the original sculptures.
- Through drama, role-play or writing tasks, students can imagine they are watching the procession and taking part in the religious ceremonies which followed it.
- Students can use the *Explore* function on the British Museum website to find pictures of the Parthenon sculptures www.britishmuseum.org A British Museum website on Ancient Greece has a wealth of activities for students and ideas for teachers: www.ancientgreece.co.uk. The sections on the Acropolis and temple-design activity are particularly relevant for this gallery session www.ancientgreece.co.uk/acropolis and www.ancientgreece.co.uk/acropolis/challenge

Curriculum links

- **National Curriculum for Citizenship at KS2**
Developing good relationships and respecting the differences between people:
Pupils should be taught to think about the lives of people living in other places and times, and people with different values and customs.
- **National Curriculum for History at KS2**
A European history study: *A study of the way of life, beliefs and achievements of the people living in Ancient Greece and the influence of their civilisation on the world today.*
- **QCA Schemes of Work for Art and Design at KS2:**
Unit 2C: Can buildings speak?
Unit 6C: A sense of place

In this workshop you will learn about:

- Why the Athenians built the Parthenon and what the different parts of this building mean.
- Why buildings and architecture are important to show power and help create a sense of identity in a group of people.

Key words

Parthenon

temple

column

frieze

architecture

sculpture

procession

identity

Why build a temple for Athena?

- You will discuss why temples were built for the gods.
- You will discuss what features make up an important building, such as large size, impressive decoration and powerful images.

Examining the Parthenon

- You will look at a model of the Parthenon to work out how the different sculptures tell different stories.
- You will learn about how the frieze shows a celebration which happened every year to celebrate Athena's birthday.

Looking at the frieze

- You will look in your groups at a small section of the frieze on the Parthenon to understand what is going on.
- You will use your imaginations to think what it might have been like to be at the celebration.